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**PERPLEX.** *adj.* [perplex, Lat. *perplexus*, Lat.] Intricate; difficult. *Perplexed* is the word in use.  
How the soul directs the spirits for the motion of the body, according to the several animal exigents, is *perplex* in the theory. *Glanville's Scept.*

**PERPLEXEDLY.** *adv.* [from *perplexed*.] Intricately; with involution.

**PERPLEXEDNESS.** *n. f.* [from *perplexed*.]  
1. Embarrassment; anxiety.  
2. Intricacy; involution; difficulty.  
Obscurity and *perplexedness* have been cast upon St. Paul's Epistles from without. *Locke.*

**PERPLEXITY.** *n. f.* [from *perplexit*, Fr.]  
1. Anxiety; distraction of mind.  
The fear of him ever since hath put me into such *perplexity*, as now you found me. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
*Perplexity* not suffering them to be idle, they think and do, as it were, in a phrensy. *Hooker, b. v. f. 3.*  
The royal virgin, which beheld from far,  
In pensive plight and sad *perplexity*,  
The whole achievement of this doubtful war,  
Came running fast to greet his victory. *Fairy Queen.*

2. Entanglement; intricacy.  
Let him look for the labyrinth; for I cannot discern any, unless in the *perplexity* of his own thoughts. *Stillington.*

**PERPOTATION.** *n. f.* [per and *pot*, Latin.] The act of drinking largely.

**PERQUISITE.** *n. f.* [from *perquisitus*, Lat.] Something gained by a place or office over and above the settled wages.  
Tell me, perfidious, was it fit  
To make my cream a *perquisite*,  
And steal to mend your wages. *Widow and Cat.*  
To an honest mind, the best *perquisites* of a place are the advantages it gives a man of doing good. *Addison.*  
To what your lawful *perquisites* amount. *Swift.*

**PERQUISITION.** *n. f.* [from *perquisitus*, Lat.] An accurate enquiry; a thorough search.

**PERRY.** *n. f.* [from *poire*, Fr. from *poire*.] Cyder made of pears.  
*Perry* is the next liquor in esteem after cyder, in the ordering of which, let not your pears be over ripe before you grind them; and with some sorts of pears, the mixing of a few crabs in the grinding is of great advantage, making *perry* equal to the redstreak cyder. *Mortimer.*

**TO PERSECUTE.** *v. a.* [from *persecutus*, Fr. *persecutus*, Lat.]  
1. To harass with penalties; to persecute with malignity. It is generally used of penalties inflicted for opinions. *Acts xxii. 4.*  
I persecuted this way unto the death. *Acts xxii. 4.*  
2. To persecute with repeated acts of vengeance or enmity.  
They might have fallen down, being persecuted of vengeance, and scattered abroad. *Wisdom xi. 20.*  
Relate,  
For what offence the queen of heav'n began  
To persecute to brave, to just a man! *Dryden.*

3. To importune much: as, he persecutes me with daily solicitations.

**PERSECUTION.** *n. f.* [from *persecutio*, Fr. *persecutio*, Lat. from *persecute*.]  
1. The act or practice of persecuting.  
The Jews raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them. *Acts xiii. 50.*  
Heavy persecution shall arise  
On all, who in the worship persevere  
Of spirit and truth. *Milton.*  
The deaths and sufferings of the primitive christians had a great share in the conversion of those learned Pagans, who lived in the ages of persecution. *Addison.*

2. The state of being persecuted.  
Our necks are under persecution; we labour and have no rest. *Lam. v. 5.*  
Christian fortitude and patience had their opportunity in times of affliction and persecution. *Sprat's Sermons.*

**PERSECUTOR.** *n. f.* [from *persecutor*, Fr. from *persecute*.] One who harasses others with continued malignity.  
What man can do against them, not afraid,  
Though to the death; against such cruelties  
With inward consolations recompens'd;  
And oft supported so, as shall amaze  
Their proudest persecutors. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
Henry rejected the pope's supremacy, but retained every corruption besides, and became a cruel persecutor. *Swift.*

**PERSEVERANCE.** *n. f.* [from *perseverantia*, Fr. *perseverantia*, Lat.] Persistence in any design or attempt; steadiness in pursuits; constancy in progress. It is applied alike to good and ill.  
The king becoming graces,  
Bounty, perseverance, mercy, lowliness;  
I have no relish of them. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*  
Perseverance keeps honour bright:  
To have done, is to hang quite out of fashion.  
Like rusty mail in monumental mockery.  
They hate repentance more than perseverance in a fault. *Shakespeare, King Charles.*

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Wait the seasons of providence with patience and perseverance in the duties of our calling, what difficulties soever we may encounter. *L'Estrange.*

Patience and perseverance overcome the greatest difficulties. *Clarissa.*

And perseverance with his batter'd shield.

**PERSEVERANT.** *adj.* [from *perseverant*, Fr. *perseverant*, Lat.] Persisting; constant. *Ainsworth.*

**TO PERSEVERE.** *v. n.* [from *persevere*, Lat. *persevere*, Fr.] This word was anciently accented less properly on the second syllable. To persist in an attempt; not to give over; not to quit the design.  
But my rude musick, which was wont to please  
Some dainty ears, cannot with any skill  
The dreadful tempest of her wrath appease,  
Nor move the dolphin from her stubborn will;  
But in her pride she doth persevere still. *Spenfer.*  
Thrice happy, if they know  
Their happiness, and persevere upright!  
Thus beginning, thus we persevere;  
Our passions yet continue what they were. *Dryden.*  
To persevere in any evil course, makes you unhappy in this life, and will certainly throw you into everlasting torments in the next. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*

**PERSEVERINGLY.** *adv.* [from *persevere*.] With perseverance.

**TO PERSIST.** *v. n.* [from *persist*, Lat. *persistere*, Fr.] To persevere; to continue firm; not to give over.  
Nothing can make a man happy, but that which shall last as long as he lasts; for an immortal soul shall persist in being not only when profit, pleasure and honour, but when time itself shall cease. *South's Sermons.*

If they persist in pointing their batteries against particular persons, no laws of war forbid the making reprisals. *Addison.*

**PERSISTENCE.** *n. f.* [from *persist*.] Persistence seems more proper.

1. The state of persisting; steadiness; constancy; perseverance in good or bad.  
The love of God better can consist with the indeliberate commissions of many sins, than with an allowed persistence in any one. *Government of the Tongue.*

2. Obstinacy; obduracy; contumacy.  
Thou think'st me as far in the devil's book, as thou and Falstaff, for obduracy and persistence. *Shakespeare.*

**PERSISTIVE.** *adj.* [from *persist*.] Steady; not receding from a purpose; persevering.  
The protractive trials of great Jove,  
To find persistence constancy in men. *Shakespeare.*

**PERSON.** *n. f.* [from *personne*, Fr. *persona*, Lat.]  
1. Individual or particular man or woman.  
A person is a thinking intelligent being, that has reason and reflection, and can consider itself as itself, the same thinking thing, in different times and places. *Locke.*

2. Man or woman considered as opposed to things, or distinct from them.  
A zeal for persons is far more easy to be perverted, than a zeal for things. *Sprat's Sermons.*  
To that we owe the safety of our persons and the propriety of our possessions. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

3. Human Being; considered with respect to mere corporal existence.  
'Tis in her heart alone that you must reign;  
You'll find her person difficult to gain. *Dryden.*

4. Man or woman considered as present, acting or suffering.  
If I am traduced by tongues which neither know  
My faculties nor person;  
'Tis but the fate of place, and the rough brake  
That virtue must go through. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*  
The rebels maintained the fight for a small time, and for their persons shewed no want of courage. *Bacon.*

5. A general loose term for a human being; one; a man.  
Be a person's attainments ever so great, he should always remember, that he is God's creature. *Clarissa.*

6. One's self; not a representative.  
When I purposed to make a war by my lieutenant, I made declaration thereof to you by my chancellor; but now that I mean to make a war upon France in person, I will declare it to you myself. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
The king in person visits all around,  
Comforts the sick, congratulates the found,  
And holds for thrice three days a royal feast. *Dryden.*

7. Exterior appearance.  
For her own person,  
It beggar'd all description. *Shakespeare.*

8. Man or woman represented in a fictitious dialogue.  
All things are lawful unto me, faith the apostle, speaking, as it seemeth, in the person of the christian gentile for the maintenance of liberty in things indifferent. *Hooker.*  
These tables Cicero pronounced under the person of Crassus, were of more use and authority than all the books of the philosophers. *Baker's Reflections on Learning.*

9. Character.  
From his first appearance upon the stage, in his new person of a sycophant or juggler, instead of his former person of a prince,

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prince, he was exposed to the derision of the courtiers and the common people, who flocked about him, that one might know where the owl was, by the flight of birds. *Bacon.*  
He hath put on the person not of a robber and a murderer, but of a traitor to the state. *Hayward.*

10. Character of office.  
I then did use the person of your father;  
The image of his power lay then in me:  
And in th' administration of his law,  
While I was busy for the commonwealth,  
Your highness pleased to forget my place. *Shakespeare.*  
How different is the same man from himself, as he sustains the person of a magistrate and that of a friend. *South.*

11. [In grammar.] The quality of the noun that modifies the verb.  
Dorus the more blushed at her smiling, and she the more smiled at his blushing; because he had, with the remembrance of that plight he was in, forgot in speaking of himself the third person. *Sidney.*  
If speaking of himself in the first person singular has so various meanings, his use of the first person plural is with greater latitude. *Locke.*

**PERSONABLE.** *adj.* [from *person*.]  
1. Handsome; graceful; of good appearance.  
Were it true that her son Nimias had such a stature, as that Simiramis, who was very personable, could be taken for him; yet it is unlikely that she could have held the empire forty-two years after by any such subtlety. *Raleigh.*

2. [In law.] One that may maintain any plea in a judicial court. *Ainsworth.*

**PERSONAGE.** *n. f.* [from *personage*, Fr.]  
1. A considerable person; man or woman of eminence.  
It was a new light fortune had prepared to those woods, to see these great personages thus run one after the other. *Sidney.*  
It is not easy to rehearse the actions of eminent personages, how much they have been blinded by the envy of others, and what was corrupted by their own felicity. *Watson.*

2. Exterior appearance; air; stature.  
She hath made compare  
Between our statures, the hath urg'd his height;  
And with her personage, her tall personage,  
She hath prevail'd with him. *Shakespeare.*  
The lord Sudley was fierce in courage, courtly in fashion, in personage stately, in voice magnificent, but somewhat empty of matter. *Hayward.*

3. Character assumed.  
The great diversion is masking: the Venetians, naturally grave, love to give into the follies of such seasons, when disguised in a false personage. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*

4. Character represented.  
Some persons must be found out, already known by history, whom we may make the actors and personages of this fable. *Brown's View of Epic Poems.*

**PERSONAL.** *adj.* [from *personalis*, Lat.]  
1. Belonging to men or women, not to things; not real.  
Every man so termed by way of personal difference only. *Hooker, b. v. f. 13.*

2. Affecting individuals or particular people; peculiar; proper to him or her; relating to one's private actions or character.  
For my part,  
I know no personal cause to spurn at him;  
But for the general. *Shakespeare, Julius Caesar.*  
It could not mean, that Cain as elder had a natural dominion over Abel, for the words are conditional; if thou doest well, and so personal to Cain. *Locke.*  
Publick reproofs of sin are general, though by this they lose a great deal of their effect; but in private conversations the application may be more personal, and the proofs when so directed come home. *Rogers.*

3. Present; not acting by representative.  
The fav'rites that the absent king  
In deputation left,  
When he was personal in the Irish war. *Shakespeare.*

4. Exterior; corporal.  
This heroic constancy determined him to desire in marriage a princess, whose personal charms were now become the least part of her character. *Addison.*

5. [In law.] Something moveable; something appendant to the person, as money; not real, as land.  
This sin of kind not personal  
But real and hereditary was. *Davies.*

6. [In grammar.] A personal verb is that which has all the regular modification of the three persons; opposed to impersonal that has only the third.  
The existence or individuality of any one.  
Person belongs only to intelligent agents, capable of a law, and happiness and misery: this personality extends itself beyond present existence to what is past, only by consciousness, whereby it imputes to itself past actions, just upon the same ground that it does the present. *Locke.*

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**PERSONALLY.** *adv.* [from *personal*.]  
1. In person; in presence; not by representative.  
Approbation not only they give, who personally declare their assent by voice, sign or act, but also when others do it in their names. *Hooker, b. i. f. 10.*  
I could not personally deliver to her  
What you commanded me, but by her woman  
I sent your message. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*  
There are many reasons, why matters of such a wonderful nature should not be taken notice of by those Pagan writers, who lived before our Saviour's disciples had personally appeared among them. *Addison.*

2. With respect to an individual; particularly.  
She bore a mortal hatred to the house of Lancaster, and personally to the king. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

3. With regard to numerical existence.  
The converted man is personally the same he was before, and is neither born nor created a-new in a proper literal sense. *Rogers's Sermons.*

**TO PERSONATE.** *v. a.* [from *persona*, Latin.]  
1. To represent by a fictitious or assumed character, so as to pass for the person represented.  
This lad was not to personate one, that had been long before taken out of his cradle, but a youth that had been brought up in a court, where infinite eyes had been upon him. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

2. To represent by action or appearance; to act.  
Herself a while she lays aside, and makes  
Ready to personate a mortal part. *Crawshaw.*

3. To pretend hypocritically, with the reciprocal pronoun.  
It has been the constant practice of the Jesuits to send over emissaries, with instructions to personate themselves members of the several sects amongst us. *Swift.*

4. To counterfeit; to feign. Little in use.  
Piety is opposed to that personated devotion, under which any kind of impiety is disguised. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*  
Thus have I played with the dogmatist in a personated scepticism. *Glanville's Scept.*

5. To resemble.  
The lofty cedar personates thee. *Shakespeare, Cymbeline.*

6. To make a representative of, as in picture. Out of use.  
Whose eyes are on this sovereign lady fixt,  
One do I personate of Timon's frame,  
Whom fortune with her iv'ry hand wafts to her. *Shakespeare.*

7. To describe. Out of use.  
I am thinking, what I shall say; it must be a personating of himself; a satire against the softness of prosperity. *Shakespeare.*  
I will drop in his way some obscure epistles  
Of love, wherein, by the colour of his beard, the  
Shape of his leg, the manner of his gait, the  
Expressure of his eye, forehead and complexion,  
He shall find himself most feelingly personated. *Shakespeare.*

**PERSONATION.** *n. f.* [from *personate*.] Counterfeiting of another person.  
This being one of the strangest examples of a personation that ever was, it deserveth to be discovered and related at the full. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

**PERSONIFICATION.** *n. f.* [from *personify*.] Personopoeia; the change of things to persons: as,  
Confusion heard his voice. *Milton.*

**TO PERSONIFY.** *v. a.* [from *person*.] To change from a thing to a person.

**PERSPECTIVE.** *n. f.* [from *perspectif*, Fr. *perspicie*, Lat.]  
1. A glass through which things are viewed.  
If it tend to danger, they turn about the perspective, and shew it so little, that he can scarce discern it. *Denham.*  
It may import us in this calm, to hearken to the storms raising abroad; and by the best perspectives, to discover from what coast they break. *Temple.*  
You hold the glass, but turn the perspective,  
And farther off the lessen'd object drive. *Dryden.*  
Faith for reason's glimmering light shall give  
Her immortal perspective. *Prior.*

2. The science by which things are ranged in picture, according to their appearance in their real situation.  
Medals have represented their buildings according to the rules of perspective. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*

3. View; vultu.  
Lofty trees, with sacred shades,  
And perspectives of pleasant glades,  
Where nymphs of brightest form appear. *Dryden.*

**PERSPECTIVE.** *adj.* Relating to the science of vision; optick; optical.  
We have perspective houses, where we make demonstrations of all lights and radiations; and out of things uncoloured and transparent, we can represent unto you all several colours. *Bacon.*

**PERSPICACIOUS.** *adj.* [from *perspicax*, Lat.] Quickfighted; sharp of sight.  
It is as nice and tender in feeling, as it can be perspicacious and quick in seeing. *South's Sermons.*

**PERSPICACIOUSNESS.**